UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/493
22 April 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 APRIL 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALBANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

As you are aware, I had planned to address the Security Council during yesterday's meeting on the situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but I was unable, for health reasons, to speak before the Council.

Therefore, I ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and the annexed statement I had intended to make at that meeting as a document of the Security Council under agenda item entitled "The situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

(Signed) Pellumb KULLA
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Albania

First, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April and for the skilful manner in which you have guided the proceedings of this important organ of the United Nations. I also would like to express my deepest appreciation for the able manner in which your predecessor, Ambassador Mérimée, presided over the Council's work during the previous month.

The Security Council again is meeting to discuss the dangerous conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina caused as result of the Serbian aggression against that country. The tragic situation created in Gorazde as a result of the latest offensive against the city, one of the six declared "safe areas", is another bloody scenario of the two-year conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Heavy and indiscriminate shelling of the city, about 400 casualties of the fighting, the humanitarian disaster and the destruction of civilian centres committed since the beginning of this month speak for themselves. It is clear that another Sarajevo is being created and the fears are that it might go far beyond.

An appropriate response to the Serbian offensive must be given urgently. In this context, Albania strongly supports the efforts of the Secretary-General, who, based on the Security Council's resolutions and in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is trying to stop what has been called as "a massive killing" in Gorazde. We fully support the request of the Secretary-General for the use of air strikes by NATO first to stop the Serbian offensive against Gorazde and then to protect the "safe areas". "Safe areas" were declared by the Council to protect them and their population and not to turn them into ghettos which easily could be shelled and bombarded until they are ethnically cleansed and taken over by the Serbs. The Security Council has already provided a framework for the protection of the safe areas, including through the assistance of regional organizations.

The arms embargo applied against the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has left unprotected the most vulnerable party to the conflict in that country. The Bosniacs see themselves till now in the hands of a United Nations still unable up to now to protect them and of a well-armed aggressor able and willing to exterminate them. Since the Untied Nations was unable to defend the Muslim people and since the Serb forces are continuing the armed "ethnic cleansing" against the Muslims, Albania opposes the arms embargo applied against the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Muslim people must be assured of the right to defend themselves, a right also stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

Albania has consistently supported and continues to support the peace process under the auspices of the United Nations and of the European Union. It has maintained that this process must ensure a durable solution to the conflict based on the maintenance of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We continue to believe that any plan for the division of that country along "ethnic lines" created through "ethnic

cleansing" will be hopeless. Today, we are witnessing how the Serbian side is using the peace process to achieve its military goals. The so-called cease-fires accepted by the Serb forces seems to be nothing but a tool to cheat the international community and to gain time for military and territorial achievements.

My Government is firm in its belief that sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro are a vital part of the international efforts to bring about an end to the barbaric aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina and to ensure an overall settlement of the Yugoslav conflict. I reiterate my Government's call for the maintenance and tightening of the implementation of the sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro until a durable solution is found to the Yugoslav crisis.

The impotence of the international community to stop the Serbian aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina is a bad omen for the vulnerable peoples in the former Yugoslavia. At the same time, it has been an encouraging factor for the Serbs to continue the war unabated. Albania, and not only Albania, fears that this will encourage Serbia to start another slaughter in the former Yugoslavia. I am referring here particularly to one of the most dangerous areas, Kosovo, where 2 million ethnic Albanians are suffering continuous fierce and massive police and military repression. Despite the admirable patience and endurance of the Albanian people of Kosovo, the situation there remains a time-bomb, the explosion of which would bring about a broad Balkan conflict that would endanger the peace and stability of Europe as a whole.

The developments in the former Yugoslavia are at a critical point. The international community must adopt a proper approach in order to face the situation. Albania is of the opinion that the following measures and initial steps should be taken by the international community:

(a) Proper military intervention, including use of air strikes, in order to stop the slaughter in Gorazde and to produce a real cease-fire; the model of Sarajevo should be applied for all the "safe areas" and for other endangered zones in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(b) Strengthening of the United Nations Protection Force to enable it to carry out its humanitarian mission and to observe implementation of the cease-fire agreements;

(c) Timely lifting of the arms embargo against the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(d) Intensification of the diplomatic efforts to bring about a peace agreement based on the principles and the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations;

(e) Strengthening of the economic sanctions and of the diplomatic isolation of Serbia and Montenegro; those sanctions should be maintained until the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina is put to an end and a durable solution is found for other ongoing crises in the former Yugoslavia;

(f) Strict control of the border area between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro.